Magar language

Dhut magar (Nepali: मगर भाषा Dhut m*agar bhasa*) is a language spoken mainly in Nepal, Southern Bhutan, Darjeeling, India, and Sikkim, India, by the Magar people. It is divided into two groups (Eastern and Western) and further dialect divisions give distinct tribal identity.[3] In Nepal 788,530 people speak the language.

While the government of Nepal developed Magar language curricula, as provisioned by constitution, the teaching materials have never successfully reached Magar schools, where most school instruction is in Nepali language.[4] It's not unusual for groups with their own language to feel that the "mother-tongue" is an essential part of identity. Dhut Magar language is sometimes lumped with Kham magar language spoken further west in Bheri, Dhaulagiri, Karnali and Rapti zones. Although the two languages share many common words, they have major structural differences and are not mutually intelligible.[5]

Magar	
Dhut, मगर भाषा	
Native to	Nepal
Ethnicity	1.9 million Magar people and others who claim to be Magar (2011 census)[1]
Native speakers	840,000 (2001–2006)[1]
Language family	Sino-Tibetan ▪ Magaric ▪ **Magar**
Official status	
Official language in	Nepal Sikkim, India
Language codes	
ISO 639-3	Either: `mgp` – Eastern Magar `mrd` – Western Magar
Glottolog	`maga1261 (http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/maga1261)`[2]

Contents

Geographical distribution
- Western Magar
- Eastern Magar

Phonology
- Consonants
- Vowels

References

Further reading

External links

Geographical distribution

Western Magar

Western Magar (dialects: *Palpa* and *Syangja*) is spoken in the following districts of Nepal (*Ethnologue*).

- Lumbini Zone: Palpa District
- Gandaki Zone: Syangja District, and Tanahu District
- Small border area in Dhawalagiri Zone: Parbat District
- Scattered throughout Bheri Zone: especially in Surkhet District, Jajarkot District, and Dailekh District

- Magars are also live in the district named parbat which is located in the western part of Nepal.

Eastern Magar

Eastern Magar (dialects: *Gorkha*, *Nawalparasi*, and *Tanahu*) is spoken in the following districts of Nepal (*Ethnologue*).

- *Zone 1: central mountains of Nepal east of the Bagmati River*
  - Gandaki Zone: Tanahu District and southern Gorkha District
  - Lumbini Zone: Palpa District and Nawalparasi District
  - Small border area in Bagmati Zone: Dhading District
- *Zone 2: eastern Nepal*
  - Sindhuli District, Janakpur Zone
  - Okhaldhunga District, Sagarmatha Zone
  - Scattered communities in central Kosi Zone and southern Mechi Zone

Phonology

Consonants

		Labial	Dental	Alveolar	Palatal	Velar	Glottal
Stop	voiceless	p	t̪*	t		k	[ʔ]
	aspirated	pʰ	t̪ʰ*	tʰ		kʰ	
	voiced	b	d̪*	d		g	
	murmured	bʱ	d̪ʱ*	dʱ		gʱ	
Affricate	voiceless			ts			
	aspirated			tsʰ			
	voiced			dz			
	murmured			dzʱ			
Fricative	voiceless			s			h
	voiced						ɦ
Nasal	voiced	m		n		ŋ	
	murmured	mʱ		nʱ		ŋʱ	
Lateral	voiced			l			
	murmured			lʱ			
Approximant	voiced	w		ɹ	j		
	murmured	wʱ		ɹʱ	jʱ		

*-only occur in the Tanahu dialect.

[ʔ] is only a marginal phoneme.[6]

Phoneme	Allophones
/p/	[p̚]
/pʰ/	[ɸ]
/t/	[tʲ t̚ t̪]
/tʰ/	[θ]
/d/	[dʲ ɖ ɗ]
/k/	[kʲ k̚]
/kʰ/	[x]
/g/	[gʲ]
/ts/	[tʃ]
/tsʰ/	[tʃʰ]
/dz/	[dʒ]
/dzʱ/	[dʒʱ]
/s/	[ʃ]
/h/	[ɦ]
/n/	[nʲ]
/ŋ/	[ŋʲ]

Vowels

	Front	Central	Back
Close	i		u
Mid	e		o
			ʌ
Open		a	

Diphthongs
/ia/
/iu/
/ei/
/eu/
/aɪ/
/au/
/oi/

[6]

Phoneme	Allophones
/i/	[i ɪ i̤ i̤ː ĩ]
/e/	[e ɛ ẽ e̤ e̤ː]
/a/	[a æ ã aˑ a̤ a̤ː]
/u/	[u ʊ u̬ ṳ ṳː ũ]
/ʌ/	[ʌ ə ə̃ ʌ̤ ʌ̃]
/o/	[o o̬ õ oˑ o̤ o̤ː]

References

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Further reading

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External links

- detailed language map, western Nepal. Eastern Magar is language #33; Western Magar is #113. (http://www.ethnologue.com/show_map.asp?name=NP&seq=30)
- ELAR archive of Magar language documentation materials (http://elar.soas.ac.uk/deposit/0213)

- The Magar language - Linguistics research - Folktales in Magar (Western) - Nepal (http://linguistgeek.wixsite.com/themagarlanguage)

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